

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 7041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION DECEMBER 19 ON INCLUSION OF AIR
MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING WITHOUT REQUIRED AIR REDUCTIONS

REF: A) STATE 265622; B) BONN 18761; C) STATE 244442

SUMMARY: SPC ON DECEMBER 19 CONSIDERED U.S. PROPOSAL ON INCLUSION
OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING WITHOUT REQUIRED AIR
REDUCTIONS. UK REP SUPPORTED U.S. APPROACH. FRG REP SAID HE
HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE KNEW BONN SAW ADVANTAGES IN
EXTENSION OF NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT IN PHASE II AS AN ALTERNATIVE.
BELGIAN REP AGREED WITH FRG REP. MISSION RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED
IN PARA 4 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) SAID THE HAGUE HAS NOT YET
COME TO A CONCLUSION WHETHER THE ALLIES SHOULD FOLLOW A
"PIECEMEAL" APPROACH REGARDING NEW PROPOSALS TO THE OTHER
SECRET

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SIDE, E.G, THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN THE
COMMON CEILING WITHOUT REQUIRED AIR REDUCTIONS. PERHAPS THE
ALLIES SHOULD FIRST COME TO AN OVERALL VIEW OF WHERE THEY WANT
TO GO ON MBFR. U.S. REP (MOORE) SAID THAT THE ALLIES NEED TO

ANSWER QUESTION WHETHER THIS SPECIFIC U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD ADVANCE THE BASIC ALLIED OBJECTIVES IN MBFR, SUCH AS COMMON CEILING, AND HE REITERATED WHY IT WOULD ADVANCE THESE OBJECTIVES. UK REP (LOGAL) SAID HE THOUGHT THE ALLIES NEED TO AGREE ON GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING BY THE AHG TARGET DATE OF FEBRUARY 1. HE SAID THE ACTUAL USE OF THIS GUIDANCE IN VIENNA WOULD DEPEND ON THE EASTERN REACTION TO THE ALLIED PROPOSAL OF A TEMPORARY NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT, AND OTHER TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

2. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID HE STILL HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT HE KNEW HIS AUTHORITIES SAW ADVANTAGES IN HANDLING AIR MANPOWER IN PHASE II THROUGH A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT RATHER THAN THROUGH INCLUSION IN THE COMMON CEILING. THEY SAW ADVANTAGES IN KEEPING THE COMMON CEILING CLEAN, SO THAT THE FOCUS WOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY ON GROUND FORCES. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) AGREED WITH THE FRG REP, ADDING THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WAS AN INTERMEDIATE STAGE TO AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD REDUCE THE UTILITY OF THE ALLIED PROPOSAL ON REDFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. MC REP (GP. CAPTAIN SMITH) QUESTIONED THE LATTER POINT. U.S. REP STRESSED THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF INCLUSION IN THE COMMON CEILING, AS OPPOSED TO EXTENSION OF THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT, I.E., THAT THIS WOULD HELP MAKE THE COMMON CEILING MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIETS, WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE PRIMARY FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES. U.S. REP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS, THE U.S. PROPOSAL CONCERNING POSSIBLE MAXIMUM 15 PCT U.S. AND SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I IS A SEPARATE PROPOSAL, INTENDED FOR ALLIED CONSIDERATION AT A LATER DATE.

3. SPC WILL NEXT CONSIDER INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6.

4. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES THAT BONN'S POSITION WILL BE CRUCIAL REGARDING THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING. CANADA AND THE UK NOW SUPPORT THE U.S.
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APPROACH. IF BONN COMES DOWN IN FAVOR OF EXTENSION OF THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT AND RECEIVES BELGIAN SUPPORT, PROSPECTS FOR EARLY NAC GUIDANCE BASED ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL WILL DIMINISH ACCORDINGLY. MISSION NOTES THAT WHEN EMBASSY BONN MADE THE DEMARCHE REQUESTED BY REF A, VAN WELL AND ROTH WERE UNAVAILABLE, AS THEY HAD TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (REF B). EMBASSY BONN SUGGESTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS MAKE A PRESENTATION TO ROTH IN WASHINGTON. IF WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WERE NOT ABLE TO MAKE THIS PRESENTATION, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY BONN MAKE THE DEMARCHE AT THE VAN WELL/ROTH LEVEL, BEFORE BONN TAKES ITS DECISION ON THE WAY IT WISHES AIR MANPOWER HANDLED IN PHASE II. FRG REP HAS NOT RAISED HERE THE RELATIONSHIP OF REDEFINITION OF GROUND

FORCES TO DEFINITION OF THE COMMON CEILING, AS RUTH
DID PER PARA 3, REF B. MISSION HAS FOUND USEFUL THE LINE OF
REASONING ON THIS POINT CONTAINED PARA 3, REF C.
BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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